



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : A61M 5/142	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 91/17780 (43) International Publication Date: 28 November 1991 (28.11.91)
---	-----------	---

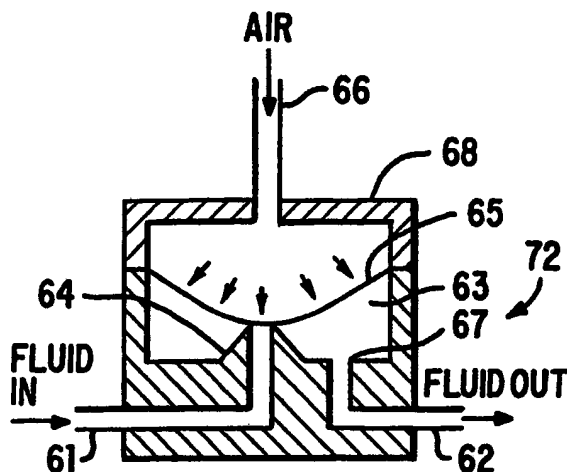
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US91/03349
(22) International Filing Date: 14 May 1991 (14.05.91)
(30) Priority data: 523,801 15 May 1990 (15.05.90) US

(71) Applicant: DEKA PRODUCTS LIMITED PARTNER-SHIP [US/US]; 340 Commercial Street, Manchester, NH 03101 (US).
(72) Inventor: KAMEN, Dean, L. ; 44 Gage Road, Bedford, NH 03102 (US).
(74) Agents: SUNSTEIN, Bruce, D. et al.; Bromberg & Sunstein, 10 West Street, Boston, MA 02111 (US).

(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BE (European patent), BR, CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, KP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: VALVE SYSTEM WITH REMOVABLE FLUID INTERFACE



(57) Abstract

A valve having a disposable portion, which comes into contact with the fluid being controlled by the valve. The disposable portion has a valving chamber (63) and a flexible membrane (65), which can seal off a mouth (64) that is located on a protrusion in the chamber. The disposable portion is held by a fixture (68) which uses a control gas to apply pressure to the flexible membrane (65). The disposable portion may also have a pressure conduction chamber (71), which may be used to measure the flow rate of liquid through the disposable portion.

5 VALVE SYSTEM WITH REMOVABLE FLUID INTERFACE

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

10

The present invention relates generally to systems for controlling fluid flow, and in particular to medical infusion technology, although other embodiments are possible.

15

2. Description of Related Art

Prior art systems for controlling the flow through an intravenous line typically act on the exterior of the standard intravenous tube. For instance, peristaltic pumps are used to pump intravenous fluid. These peristaltic pumps force the fluid through the line by squeezing the intravenous tube. Similarly, in order to restrict or cut off the flow of fluid, a clamp is used to squeeze the intravenous tube.

The advantage of these systems is that the pump or the clamp is not contaminated by coming into contact with the intravenous fluid. The intravenous fluid remains inside the intravenous line. Thus, the pump or the clamp does not need to be washed or sterilized between uses.

The disadvantage of these systems is that squeezing the standard intravenous tube is an inefficient way to control the flow through an intravenous line. It takes a great deal of force to squeeze and keep shut an intravenous tube. Additionally, after repeated or prolonged squeezings the intravenous tube tends to lose its rounded shape and become oblong in cross-section. Thus, even when it is desired to

have unrestricted flow through the intravenous line, a tube that has undergone prolonged or repeated squeezings may restrict flow. Furthermore, a peristaltic pump that works on the outside of the intravenous tube cannot be used to
5 deliver precise quantities of intravenous fluid.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a system for providing a valve for controlling flow of a fluid through a line (e.g.,
10 an intravenous line), wherein the portion of the valve that comes into contact with the fluid being controlled can be easily removed from the rest of the system and disposed of. This disposable portion is held against a fixture, which is that part of the system that is permanent and contains a
15 control apparatus that opens and closes the valve. In certain embodiments the system may have more than one valve and may further have one or more pressure conduction chambers. As its name suggests, a pressure conduction chamber is used to transmit pressure to the fluid. As
20 explained in the parent application, pressure may be applied to the fluid in order to measure the fluid flow rate. Alternatively, pressure may be applied to the fluid simply to force the fluid through the line, i.e., pumping the fluid (which may be done with positive or negative pressure).
25 Preferably, the pressure conduction chamber is used for both flow measurement and pumping.

The disposable portion of the valve, i.e., the disposable conduit, contains a housing, through which a fluid path runs. The fluid path enters and exits the
30 housing through at least two ports (one input and one output), which connect to the intravenous line. Disposed in the housing in the fluid path is at least one valving chamber. The fluid path enters and exits the valving chamber at two mouths. Preferably, at least one of the two
35 mouths in the valving chamber is located on a protuberance from the surface of the housing. A flexible impermeable membrane is disposed on the surface of the housing and forms

one of the sides of the valving chamber. The membrane is so disposed on the housing so that the flexible membrane can cover at least one of the mouths when a sufficient amount of pressure is applied to the side of the membrane facing away
5 from the valving chamber. It is therefore preferred to locate at least one of the mouths opposite the flexible membrane, although the mouths could be oriented differently. The housing should be rigid enough so that the covering of the mouth by the flexible membrane can be reliably effected
10 such that the membrane forms a seal over the mouth. If the housing is not rigid enough, it may be difficult to force the membrane to seal the mouth.

It may be desired to use a disposable valve that would, in one mode, allow relatively unrestricted flow and, in another
15 mode, merely restrict flow through the fluid conduit without completely stopping flow. To accomplish this, the geometry of the mouth may be altered so that, when the membrane is forced against the mouth, the mouth is not completely sealed, thereby allowing some flow through the conduit. A
20 disposable conduit may contain two valves, one of which could be used to reduce flow, while the other could be used to stop flow through the fluid conduit.

In a preferred embodiment of the disposable conduit, the housing defines a pressure conduction chamber, located
25 in the fluid path. Valving chambers may be located between the pressure conduction chamber and each of the ports. A flexible impermeable membrane also defines one of the sides of the pressure conduction chamber. Preferably, different portions of the same sheet of flexible material can form the
30 flexible membranes for all the valving chambers and pressure conduction chambers. In one embodiment, the housing is disposed in a bag made of flexible material, which forms the flexible membranes over the valving chambers and pressure conduction chambers.

35 The fixture, that part of the valving system that is permanent, includes a mechanism for holding the disposable fluid conduit in such a way that the disposable fluid

conduit may be easily and quickly detached from the fixture (however, not so easily that the disposable fluid conduit may be detached accidentally). The fixture also includes an apparatus for controlling the flow of fluid through the line. This control is accomplished by moving the membrane covering the valving chamber so that the membrane is alternately (i) forced against at least one of the mouths so as to prevent flow through the valving chamber and (ii) not so forced so that flow through the valving chamber is permitted. The fixture may apply a control fluid to the membrane; when the fixture increases the pressure of the control fluid, the membrane may be forced against at least one of the mouths, and when the fixture lowers the pressure of the control fluid, the membrane may be allowed to move away from the at least one mouth. Alternatively, an actuator may be used to apply pressure to the membrane. This actuator may include a piezoelectric bender. The fixture may also include an apparatus for transmitting pressure to the membranes covering the pressure conduction chambers. Preferably, this apparatus uses the same control fluid (e.g., air) that is used to control the valves in the disposable conduit for transmitting the pressure to the membrane covering the pressure conduction chamber. It will be appreciated that a microprocessor, or other electronic controller, is preferably used for regulating the pressure of the control fluid or the position of the actuator.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2 show cross-sections of two different embodiments of the invention, including a fixture and a disposable portion with one valving chamber.

Fig. 3 shows a plan view of the rigid housing of a disposable cartridge having ten valving chambers and two pressure conduction chambers.

Fig. 4 shows a plan view of the disposable cartridge of Fig. 3 and its internal fluid paths.

Fig. 5 shows an end view of the disposable cartridge of Figs. 3 and 4.

Fig. 6 shows a plan view of the face of the fixture, or central system unit, against which the disposable cartridge 5 of Figs. 3-5 is placed.

Fig. 7 shows a plan view of an alternative disposable cartridge and its internal fluid paths.

Fig. 8 shows a cross-section of another alternative disposable in contact with a fixture.

10 Fig. 9 shows a cross-section of an embodiment of the invention, including a fixture using pieze-electric benders and a disposable portion with one valving chamber, wherein the valve is open.

15 Fig. 10 shows a cross-section of the embodiment shown in Fig. 9, wherein the valve is closed.

Fig. 11 shows a cross-section of a preferred embodiment of the disposable conduit, wherein the rigid housing is placed in a bag.

20 Fig. 12 shows a cross-section of the disposable conduit shown in Fig. 11 and a fixture for holding the disposable conduit.

Like reference numerals refer to like items.

Description of Specific Embodiments

25

A simple embodiment of the present invention is shown in Fig. 1, wherein a single valve is provided. The fluid path passes from the fluid line input 61 through the valving chamber 63 to the fluid line output 62. The valving chamber 30 63 is made of a rigid material, such as molded hard plastic. The fluid path enters the valving chamber 63 through a first mouth 64, which in this embodiment is located on a protuberance projecting from the wall of the valving chamber opposite the flexible membrane 65. The fluid path exits the 35 valving chamber through a second mouth 69, which in this embodiment is flush with a wall of the valving chamber. Fig. 2 shows another embodiment, wherein both mouths, 64 and

67, are located on protuberances. Alternative (albeit non-preferred) embodiments may have both mouths flush with a wall of the valving chamber or even on the sides of the valving chamber. In these embodiments the membrane needs to
5 be more flexible, and it is more difficult to effect a seal over the mouth.

One wall of the valving chamber 63 is provided by a flexible impermeable membrane 65. This wall of the valving chamber is placed against a fixture 68, which provides a
10 control fluid, preferably air, from a control fluid supply line 66 to the exterior surface of the membrane. The first mouth 64 is located with respect to the membrane 65 such that when the control fluid pressure is increased in the control fluid supply line 66 the flexible membrane 65 is
15 urged against the mouth 64. Preferably, a material is chosen for the membrane 65 such that the membrane "grips" the mouth 64 in order to provide a better seal. (In an alternative embodiment, the geometry of the mouth would be altered so that the membrane would not completely seal it,
20 thereby reducing, but not stopping, flow through the conduit. Such a valve may be built by cutting a notch in the protuberance that the mouth is located on.) In the Fig. 2 embodiment the second mouth 67 is also located opposite from the flexible membrane so that when the pressure of the
25 control fluid is increased the flexible membrane is also urged against mouth 67. When it is desired to open the fluid path, the control fluid pressure is decreased until the fluid pressure in the fluid path pushes the membrane 65 away from the mouth 64, thereby permitting fluid to flow
30 through the valving chamber. The protuberances may be made so that their height is adjustable, thereby allowing one to alter at what point the membrane would come into contact with the mouth.

The structure of these embodiments permits a mechanical
35 advantage. The control fluid tends to distribute force all along the surface of the membrane 65. Because of the small diameter of the mouth 64, the fluid in the fluid input 61

acts on only a small area of the membrane 65, when the membrane is sealed against the mouth. Thus, the control fluid line pressure can produce more force on the membrane than the fluid input pressure (since force is equal to
5 pressure times area). The Fig. 2 embodiment is useful if the output fluid may be highly pressurized, since the second mouth 67 in the this embodiment only permits a small area of the membrane to be exposed to the output fluid, when the membrane is sealed against the second mouth.

10 The pressure in the control fluid supply line may be controlled using a stepper motor employing a cam-actuated piston or other means known in the art. In a piston-based embodiment, a piston is used to compress the control fluid in the line, thereby increasing the control fluid pressure
15 and causing the membrane to seal one or two of the mouths in the valving chamber. The piston is then retracted to decrease the control fluid pressure and thereby open the valve.

In an alternative embodiment the control fluid is
20 stored in an airtight reservoir in communication with the control fluid line. A compressor is used to increase the control fluid pressure in the reservoir, and a solenoid-operated valve is used to open a communication pathway between the reservoir and the control fluid line, thereby
25 increasing the pressure in the control line. (The foregoing is controlled by a microprocessor.) Alternatively, the reservoir may be pressurized using a hand pump. To open the valve in the disposable conduit, the communication pathway between the reservoir and the control fluid line is closed,
30 and the control fluid line vented to ambient atmosphere.

The present invention provides numerous advantages. Primary among these advantages is the combination of mechanical reliability with low cost and ease of manufacture. The valving systems shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are
35 mechanically reliable because they have relatively few moving parts. The valving chamber 63 is fixed, as are the fluid line input 61, the fluid line output 62 and the

control fluid line 66. The only moving parts are the control fluid pressure generating means and the flexible membrane 65. As discussed above, the control fluid pressure generating means may be implemented using a stepper motor and piston. Piston assemblies, because of the limited range of motion involved, are also mechanically reliable. As further discussed above, the control fluid pressure generating means may also be implemented using a pressurized air reservoir. The only moving parts in such an embodiment are the valve connecting the reservoir to the control fluid line, and the means used to pressurize the reservoir.

Further, the flexible membrane 65 may be made of any of a number of readily available, inexpensive materials, for example, the flexible plastic used to make intravenous bags. This material is known to be extremely rugged, in addition to being relatively inexpensive. Further, this plastic has excellent "gripping" properties.

Another advantage to using a membrane-based system is that there are none of the known disadvantages inherent in valving systems based on squeezing an intravenous tube. The first disadvantage in a squeezing system is that it is relatively difficult to obtain a perfect closing of the line. A relatively large amount of energy must be expended to pinch an intravenous line closed, because of the difficulty in "folding" the edges of a pinched tube. A further disadvantage is cold flow. An intravenous tube will, after repeated openings and closings, tend to change shape around the pinching site. This in turn decreases the mechanical reliability of the intravenous delivery system. None of these disadvantages are present in a membrane-based system. As discussed above, because of the mechanical advantage inherent in this system, relatively little energy is required to keep the valve closed. And because there is no pinching involved, cold flow does not present a significant problem.

Further, the device does not require precision molding. The valve will tolerate a broad range of manufacturing

imperfections. For example, even if the valve chamber mouth is not perfectly aligned, the membrane will still seal against it. Even if the control fluid line is slightly off center, the membrane will still be urged against the valve chamber mouth. The only stringent requirements are that the valve chamber, including input and output lines, be fluidtight, and that the control fluid line be airtight.

In addition, the utility of this valving system can be enhanced by the manufacturing method used. For example, the input line, valving chamber (including mouth), output line and membrane all may be constructed into a single disposable unit that may also include a pressure conduction chamber. The membrane may be attached to a rigid plastic structure that is sized to fit snugly onto a central flow control system unit. Alternatively, the valving system may be made integral with a drip chamber structure, which would be received by a specially adapted fixture.

In one embodiment of a flow control system, it is contemplated to mold the pressure conduction chamber together with input and output pathways and membrane-based valving chambers all out of the same block of plastic. The same sheet of membrane may be used as the membrane in the valves and the pressure conduction chamber. Two such disposable units are depicted in Figs. 3-5 and Fig. 7.

When being used to control flow, the disposable unit is affixed to a receiving block, such as that shown in Fig. 6, which is used with the disposable unit depicted in Figs. 3-5. The housing unit may be held in place by a retaining clamp, or by other means known in the art. Sealing rings are provided to insure that the control fluid pathways, and the measurement gas pathways remain fluidtight. In this embodiment, it is contemplated that the receiving block would be an integral part of the central flow control system unit. It will be seen that this is a desirable arrangement. The disposable unit is used to transport intravenous fluid, and must therefore be sterile. It would be impractical to clean and sterilize such a unit for multiple uses. The

receiving block, on the other hand, must be sturdy, to insure a proper seal, and to insure proper operation of the valves.

The controller (i.e., the microprocessor) may be
5 programmed to perform a safety protocol during calibration of the device to check that all the seals are tight. During such a protocol, control fluid pressure to various valving chambers may be manipulated, and the resulting pressure changes may be monitored using the pressure transducers in
10 the central flow control system unit. Aberrant conditions would cause an alarm state to be entered into.

Not all pathways would be required for all applications of the controller unit. A "universal" housing unit that would embody all possible pathway configurations for various
15 situations may be designed and manufactured. The receiving block would be adapted for specific controller applications. Alternatively, the microprocessor could be programmed to valve off pathways, as required.

Fig. 3 shows one embodiment of a disposable housing
20 unit (or "cartridge" or "cassette"). This particular unit has two concave indentations 71 for pressure conduction chambers, so that two fluid control systems may function in parallel. In a preferred embodiment, two fluid control systems are used to deliver intravenous fluid to a patient
25 in order to make the flow of fluid smoother. As one container 71 is dispensing, the other is filling. Thus, fluid is delivered in more closely spaced and smaller pulses, rather than larger pulses that come less frequently and that have longer periods between them.

30 The disposable cartridge shown in Fig. 3 also has ten valves 72 of the type depicted in Fig. 1, with the input 61 and the output 62 showing. This side of the unit has a membrane stretched across and attached to it that serves as the membrane (65 in Fig. 1) for the valves 72 and the
35 membrane for the pressure conduction chamber 71. (See item 91 in Fig. 5.)

Fig. 4 shows a bottom view of the disposable cartridge

showing the internal piping or passageways 81, which are inside the disposable cartridge and which connect the various valves 72, the container indentations 71 and the various inputs and outputs 82-86. The inputs and outputs
5 may be arranged in a variety of ways; for example, the top two ports 82 and 83 may both be inputs coming from two different fluid supplies, the bottom two ports 85 and 86 may be outputs. Port 84 could be used to remove samples of the fluid from the container for testing or analyzing or to add
10 additional medication to the intravenous fluid. Fig. 5 shows an end view of these ports 82-86, as well as the fluid side of the containers 71 in phantom. The membrane 91 for the valves 72 and the containers 71 is attached to the disposable cartridge on the side indicated. The membrane 91
15 billows in and out depending on how much fluid is in the container.

Fig. 6 shows the face of the flow control system unit, against which the disposable shown in Figs. 3-5 is placed and held by a clamping device. There are two large
20 indentations 101 on the system unit to match the indentations 71 on the disposable. These indentations 101 on the system unit can contain a measurement gas for measuring the fluid flow rate. Each indentation has an aperture 103, through which measurement gas passes. The
25 measurement gas can be used to measure how much of the complete container is not occupied by the fluid (when the container is isolated) and thereby permit measurement of the fluid flow rate, as well as to suction fluid into the container, and to force fluid out of the container.

Fig. 6 also shows receptacles, or dimples, 102 for the valves 72 and an aperture 66, through which the valve control fluid passes. The pressure conduction chamber indentations 101 and the valve receptacles 102 are surrounded by seals, 105 and 106 respectively, so that when
35 the disposable is clamped against the system unit an airtight seal is formed.

Fig. 7 shows an alternative disposable housing unit

that like the disposable housing unit in Figs. 3-5 has container indentations 71, fluid pathways 81 and input/output ports 82-86. The Fig. 7 disposable, however, uses the valves 111 shown in Fig. 2. Despite this difference and the different piping layout, the Fig. 7 disposable functions the same way as the disposable in Figs. 3-4.

Fig. 8 shows a simple embodiment of the disposable housing unit 124 clamped against the face of the central flow control unit 125 designed for this disposable 124. This disposable 124 has only one pressure conduction chamber 2 and two valves, A and B. The input 61a of valve A is connected to the intravenous line 1 by a protrusion 121, which can be inserted in the intravenous tubing. Valve A and valve B are of the type depicted in Fig. 2; the two beveled mouths 64a and 67a can be seen in valve A. The output 62a of valve A leads in to the left half of the pressure conduction chamber 2, which is formed by the indentation 71 in the disposable 124. Membrane sheet 91 is attached to the disposable 124 and covers the whole side of the disposable. Parts of this membrane sheet 91 function as the membrane 65a for valve A, the membrane 3 in the pressure conduction chamber 2, and the membrane 65b in valve B. Valve A is disposed against a receptacle 102a in the central unit 125, which is connected to an air supply 66a through which air is pumped back and forth, thereby effecting the opening and closing of valve A by pulling the membrane 65a back from the mouths 64a and 67a and pushing the membrane 65a against mouths 64a and 67a. In this case, the air is functioning as the valve control fluid.

Channel 103 provides a path for the measurement gas (which can be air) from the pressure conduction chamber 2 to the rest of the system (including, for example, the reservoir). The membrane 3, which, as noted above, is part of the flexible sheet 91, moves back and forth depending on how much fluid is in the pressure conduction chamber 2. Because the pressure is changed frequently during flow

measurement cycles, the temperature of the measurement gas may fluctuate. Such temperature fluctuations may affect the accuracy of flow measurement. In order to stabilize the temperature, it may be desired to place steel or copper wool
5 in the channel 103 to act as a heat sink.

The pressure conduction chamber 2 is connected to the input 61b of valve B, which is disposed against the receptacle 102b and which functions the same way as valve A by means of air supply 66b. The output 62b flows into the
10 intravenous line 1 connected to the patient. A protusion 122 is used to attach the tube to the disposable 124.

In order to ensure the proper sealing between the elements of the disposable, gasket-like seals, 105 and 106, are disposed around the container and the valves.

15 Figs. 9 and 10 show an alternative embodiment of the system, wherein Fig. 9 shows the valve open and Fig. 10 shows the valve closed. The disposable portion 72 of the valve is very similar to the disposable portion of the valve shown in Fig. 1. The fixture, however, is different.
20 Instead of using a control fluid to move the membrane 65, the fixture uses an actuator to apply a force to the membrane. The face of the fixture is made of a flexible, yet durable, material 21. An actuator moves the face of the fixture, so that it alternately forces the membrane 65
25 against the mouth 64 in the valving chamber and allows the membrane 65 to move away from the mouth 64. The embodiment shown in Figs. 9 and 10 use a bender 23 made of piezo-electric material. In Fig. 9 the bender 23 is in its normal position. In Fig. 10 the bender 23 is actuated by an
30 electric potential, thereby bending the bender 23 and forcing the rod 22 down so that the face of the fixture forces the membrane 65 over the mouth 64. Conversely, the bender may be set so that in its normal position it forces the membrane over the mouth, and when actuated by an
35 electric potential the bender pulls back the face of the fixture, thereby allowing the membrane to move off of the mouth.

Fig. 11 shows a cross-section of a preferred embodiment of the disposable conduit. In this embodiment a relatively rigid housing 34 is placed inside a bag 35 made of a flexible, impermeable material. The bag needs at least one opening through which the ports of the housing may pass and be connected to the intravenous line. Preferably, the opening of the bag is formed relatively tightly around the ports of the housing, so that fluid spillage is minimized when the intravenous line is disconnected from the disposable conduit. A pressure conduction chamber 71, as well as any valving chambers (not shown) or any other pressure conduction chambers (not shown), are located on the top side of the housing 34. Fluid paths 32 are formed as grooves on the underside of the housing. Additional groove-like fluid paths may be placed in the top side of the fluid housing. Some groove-like fluid paths 32 may be connected to the pressure conduction chamber 71 by means of vertical paths 33.

In Fig. 12 the disposable fluid conduit of Fig. 11 is held against a fixture 45 by means of a clasp 43, which at one end is hingedly attached to the fixture 45 and at the other end may be held to the fixture 45 by means of a threaded screw and nut 44 or some other type of quick-release fastening means that is able to apply sufficient force to the disposable fluid conduit while holding the conduit. A gasket 41 on the fixture serves to seal the bag 35 around the pressure conduction chamber 71. Thus, a portion of the bag forms the membrane on the pressure conduction chamber. Another gasket 42 is placed on the clasp portion 43 of the fixture, so as to form seals around the groove-like fluid paths 32. If any groove-like fluid paths are located on the top side of the housing, the gasket on the face of the fixture may be shaped so as to form seals around these groove-like fluid paths. The clasping portion of the fixture 43 must be able to exert enough force on the disposable fluid conduit, so that the gasket may create effective seals. This type structure is preferred, because

it is much easier to manufacture a housing 34 with groove-like fluid paths 32 on its surface than to manufacture a housing with fluid paths encased inside the housing. Thus, the bag 35, in addition to forming the membrane on the

5 pressure conduction chambers and the valving chambers, is also used to seal the groove-like fluid paths so that fluid does not leak from one fluid path 32 into an adjacent fluid path 32.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing a valve in a line that delivers liquid, such that the portion of the valve that comes into contact with the liquid in the line may be easily
5 disposable, the system comprising:

a housing;

a first flexible membrane disposed on the housing, the first flexible membrane having an internal side facing the housing and an external side facing away from the housing,
10 the housing and the first flexible membrane defining a valving chamber;

a liquid path passing through the housing from a first port through the valving chamber to a second port so as to provide liquid communication between the valving chamber and
15 the line, the path entering the valving chamber at first and second mouths, wherein at least one of said mouths inside the valving chamber protrudes from one side of the housing towards the membrane;

a fixture for holding the housing, such that the
20 housing may be easily disengaged from the fixture; and
first pressure means, disposed in the fixture, for alternately (i) providing pressure to the external side of the first flexible membrane so as to force the first flexible membrane against the protruding mouth and (ii)
25 relieving pressure on the external side of the first flexible membrane so as to permit relatively unrestricted flow through the liquid path through the valving chamber.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first pressure means includes means, located in the fixture, for
30 (a) providing a control gas to an area adjacent to the first flexible membrane and the valving chamber and (b) changing the pressure of the control gas.

3. A system according to claim 2, further including
a second flexible membrane disposed on the housing, the
35 second flexible membrane having an internal side facing the housing and an external side facing away from the housing, the housing and the second flexible membrane defining a

pressure conduction chamber disposed in the liquid path, and
second pressure means, disposed in the fixture, for
alternately (i) providing pressure to the external side of
the second flexible membrane in the region of the pressure
5 conduction chamber and (ii) relieving pressure on the
external side of the second flexible membrane in the region
of the pressure conduction chamber;

wherein the second pressure means includes means,
located in the fixture, for (a) providing a measurement gas
10 to an area adjacent to the second flexible membrane and (b)
changing the pressure of the control gas.

4. A system according to claim 2, wherein the fixture
includes a dimple located adjacent to the flexible membrane
and the valving chamber, and the means for providing a
15 control gas provides the control gas to the dimple.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first
pressure means includes an actuator, located in the fixture
adjacent to the flexible membrane and the valving chamber,
that, in a first position, forces the flexible membrane
20 against the first mouth and, in a second position, is
located closer to the fixture and further from the housing
so as to allow flow through the liquid path through the
valving chamber.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein the
25 actuator includes a piezoelectric bender.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the housing
is disposed in a bag, the bag having at least one opening to
permit fluid communication between the line and the liquid
path and forming the first flexible membrane.

30 8. A system according to claim 3, wherein the housing
is disposed in a bag, the bag having at least one opening to
permit fluid communication between the line and the liquid
path and forming the first and second flexible membranes.

9. A disposable liquid conduit for use in a system
35 for transmitting liquid through a line, the disposable
conduit being that part of the system that comes into
contact with the liquid and comprising:

a housing;

a first flexible membrane disposed on the housing, the housing and the first flexible membrane defining a first valving chamber;

5 a second flexible membrane disposed on the housing, the housing and the second flexible membrane defining a pressure conduction chamber; and

a liquid path passing through the housing from a first port through the first valving chamber and the pressure
10 conduction chamber to a second port, the liquid path entering the first valving chamber at first and second mouths, wherein at least one of said mouths inside the valving chamber protrudes from one side of the housing towards the membrane.

15 10. A liquid conduit according to claim 9, further including a third flexible membrane, wherein the third flexible membrane and the housing define a second valving chamber disposed in the liquid path such that the liquid path first passes through one valving chamber, then the
20 pressure conduction chamber and then the other valving chamber.

11. A liquid conduit according claim 10, wherein a single sheet of flexible material forms the first, second and third flexible membranes.

25 12. A liquid conduit according to claim 9, wherein the housing is disposed in a bag, the bag having at least one opening to permit fluid communication between the line and the liquid path, the bag forming the first and second flexible membranes.

30 13. A liquid conduit according to claim 9, wherein at least two of said mouths inside the valving chamber are located opposite the first flexible membrane and on a protuberance of the housing.

14. A disposable fluid conduit according to claim 11,
35 wherein the housing is disposed in a bag, the bag having at least one opening to permit fluid communication between the line and the fluid path, the bag forming the first, second

and third flexible membranes.

15. A system for receiving a disposable liquid conduit, the liquid conduit having a housing, a first flexible membrane disposed on the housing and a valving chamber defined by the first flexible membrane and the housing, and a pressure conduction chamber defined by the housing and a second flexible membrane disposed on the housing, the system forming with the liquid conduit a valve in a line that delivers liquid, the system comprising:
- 10 a fixture for holding the liquid conduit, such that the disposable liquid conduit may be easily disengaged from the fixture; and

first pressure means, disposed in the fixture, for alternately (i) providing pressure to the first flexible membrane so as to restrict flow through the liquid path through the valving chamber and (ii) relieving pressure on the flexible membrane so as to permit relatively unrestricted flow through the liquid path through the valving chamber;

- 20 second pressure means, disposed in the fixture for providing pressure to the second flexible membrane;

wherein the first and second pressure means includes means, located in the fixture, for (a) providing a control gas to an area adjacent to the first and second flexible membranes and (b) changing the pressure of the control gas.

16. A system according to claim 16, wherein the fixture includes a dimple, through which the means for providing a control gas provides the control gas to an area adjacent to the first flexible membrane.

17. A system for receiving a disposable fluid conduit, the fluid conduit having a housing, a flexible membrane disposed on the housing and a valving chamber defined by the flexible membrane and the housing, and forming with the fluid conduit a valve in a line that delivers fluid, the system comprising:

a fixture for holding the fluid conduit, such that the disposable fluid conduit may be easily disengaged from the

fixture; and

pressure means, disposed in the fixture, for alternatively (i) providing pressure to the flexible membranes and (ii) relieving pressure on the flexible
5 membrane so as to permit relatively unrestricted flow through the fluid path through the valving chamber wherein the pressure means includes a piezo-electric bender located in the fixture, that, in a first position, applies a force to the flexible membrane and, in a second position, is
10 located closer to the fixture.

18. A method for providing a valve in a line that delivers liquid, such that the portion of the valve that comes into contact with the liquid in the line may be easily disposable, the method comprising:

15 providing a first flexible membrane having a first side and a second side;

placing a housing against the first side of the flexible membrane, the housing including a valving chamber and a liquid path passing through the housing from a first
20 port through the valving chamber to a second port so as to provide liquid communication between the valving chamber and the line, the path entering the valving chamber at first and second mouths, wherein at least one of said mouths inside the valving chamber protrudes from one side of the housing
25 towards the membrane;

holding the first flexible membrane and the housing against a fixture, such that the second side of the membrane is pressed against the fixture, and the first flexible membrane is sealed against the housing around the valving
30 chamber;

providing pressure to the second side of the first flexible membrane so as to force the first flexible membrane against the protruding mouth;

relieving pressure on the external side of the first
35 flexible membrane so as to permit relatively unrestricted flow through the liquid path through the valving chamber; and

- 21 -

removing the first flexible membrane and the housing
from the fixture.

1/5

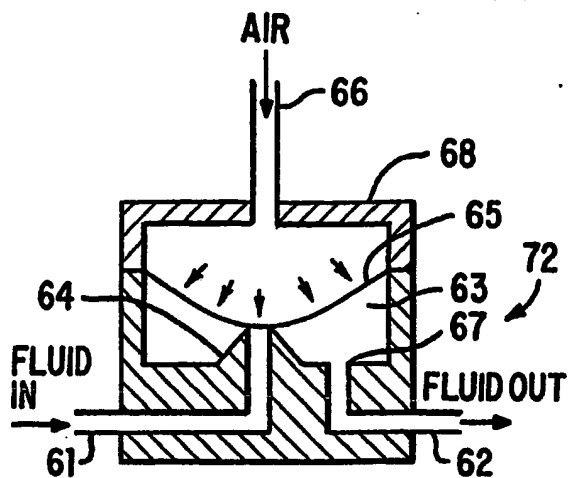


FIG. 1

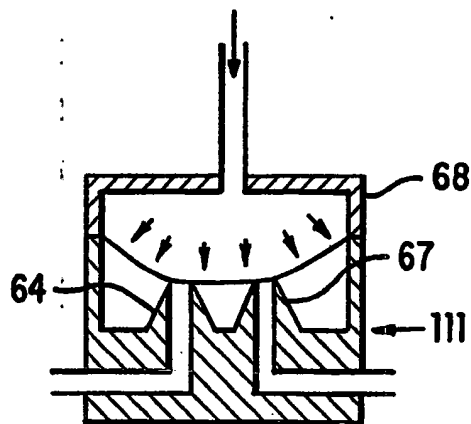


FIG. 2

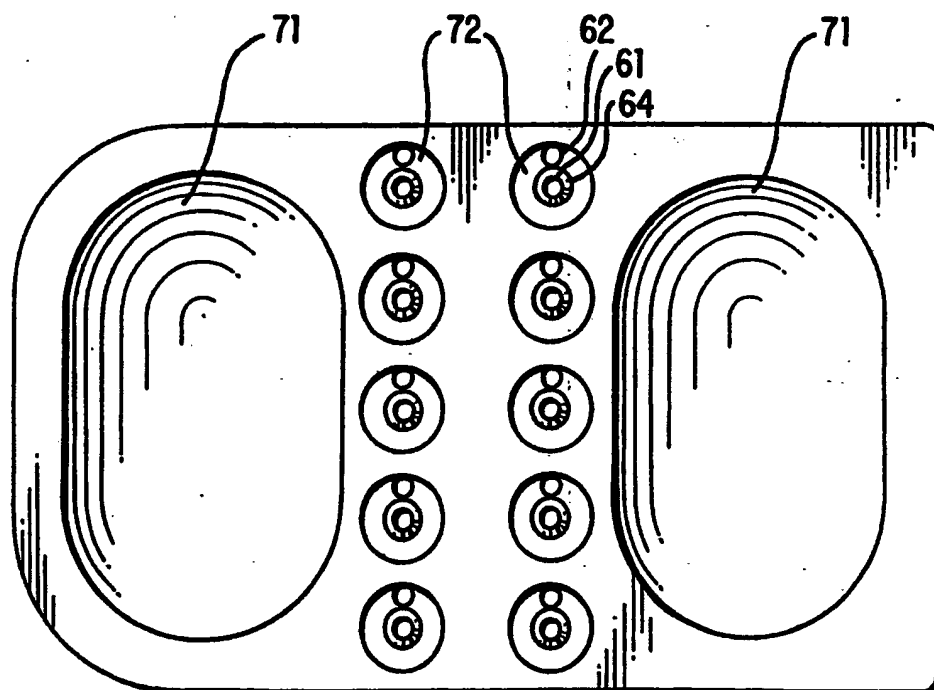


FIG. 3

2/5

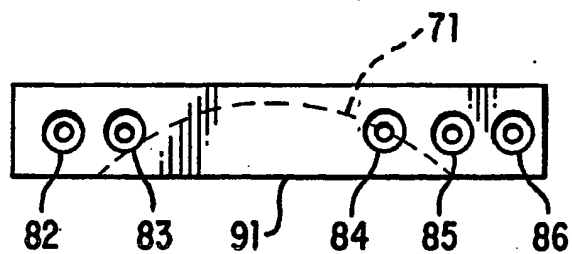


FIG. 5

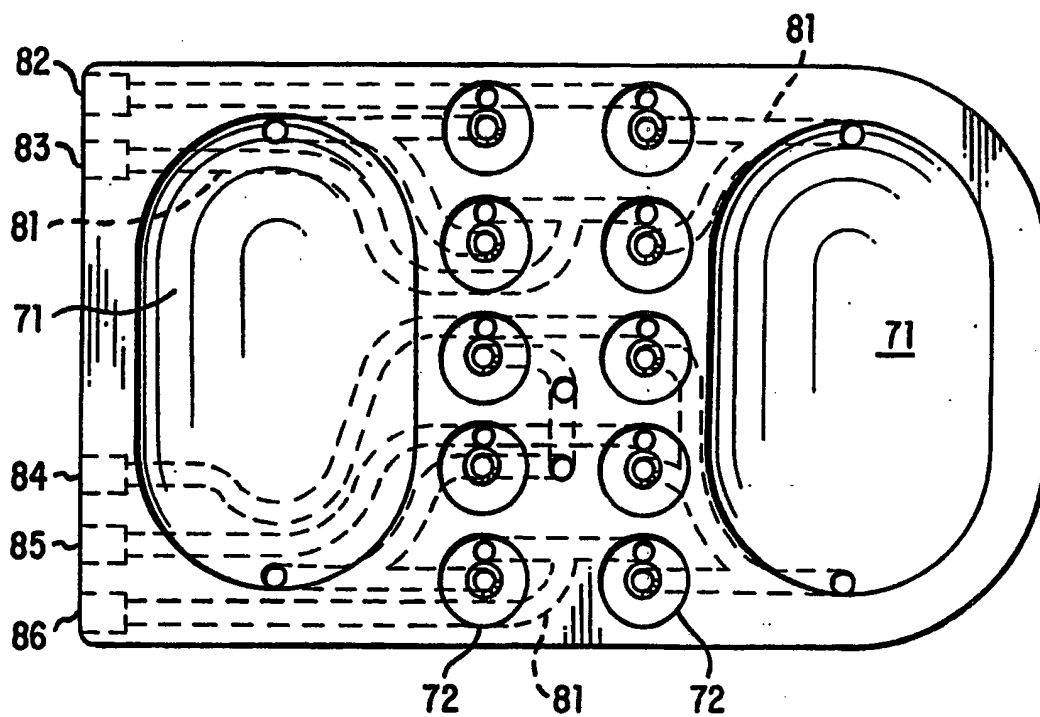
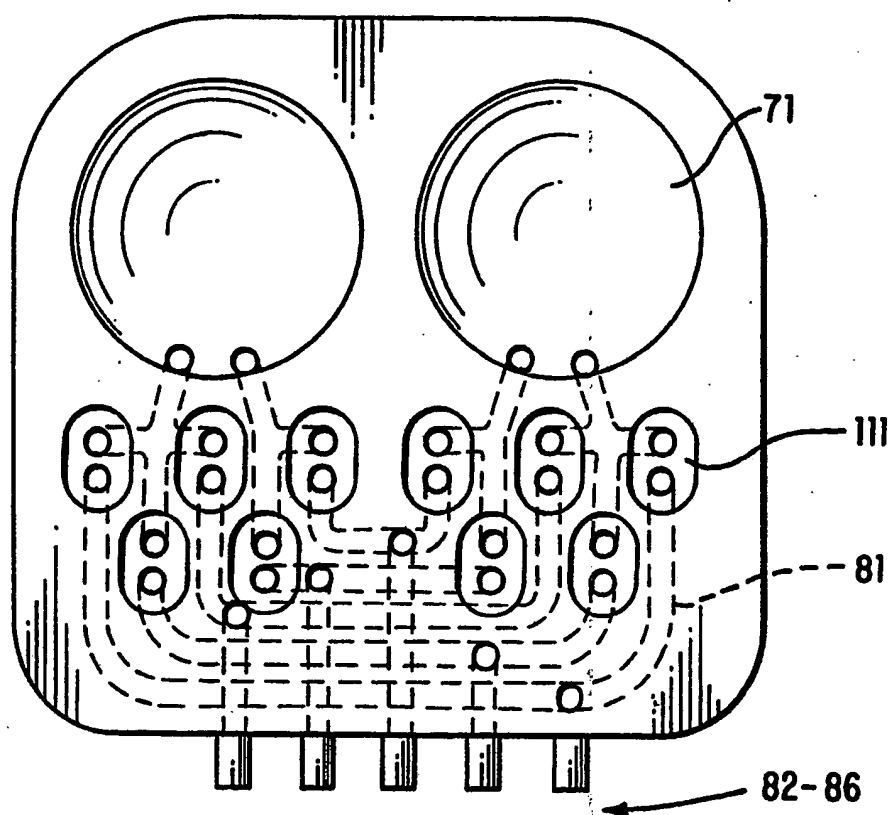
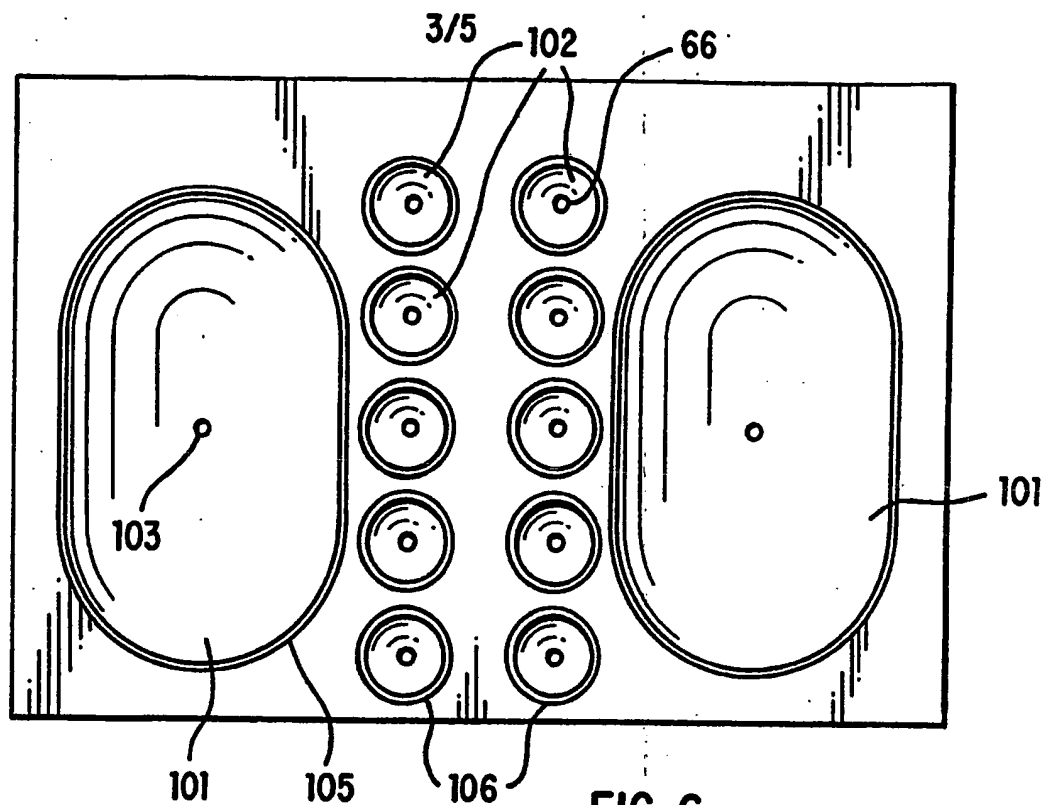


FIG. 4



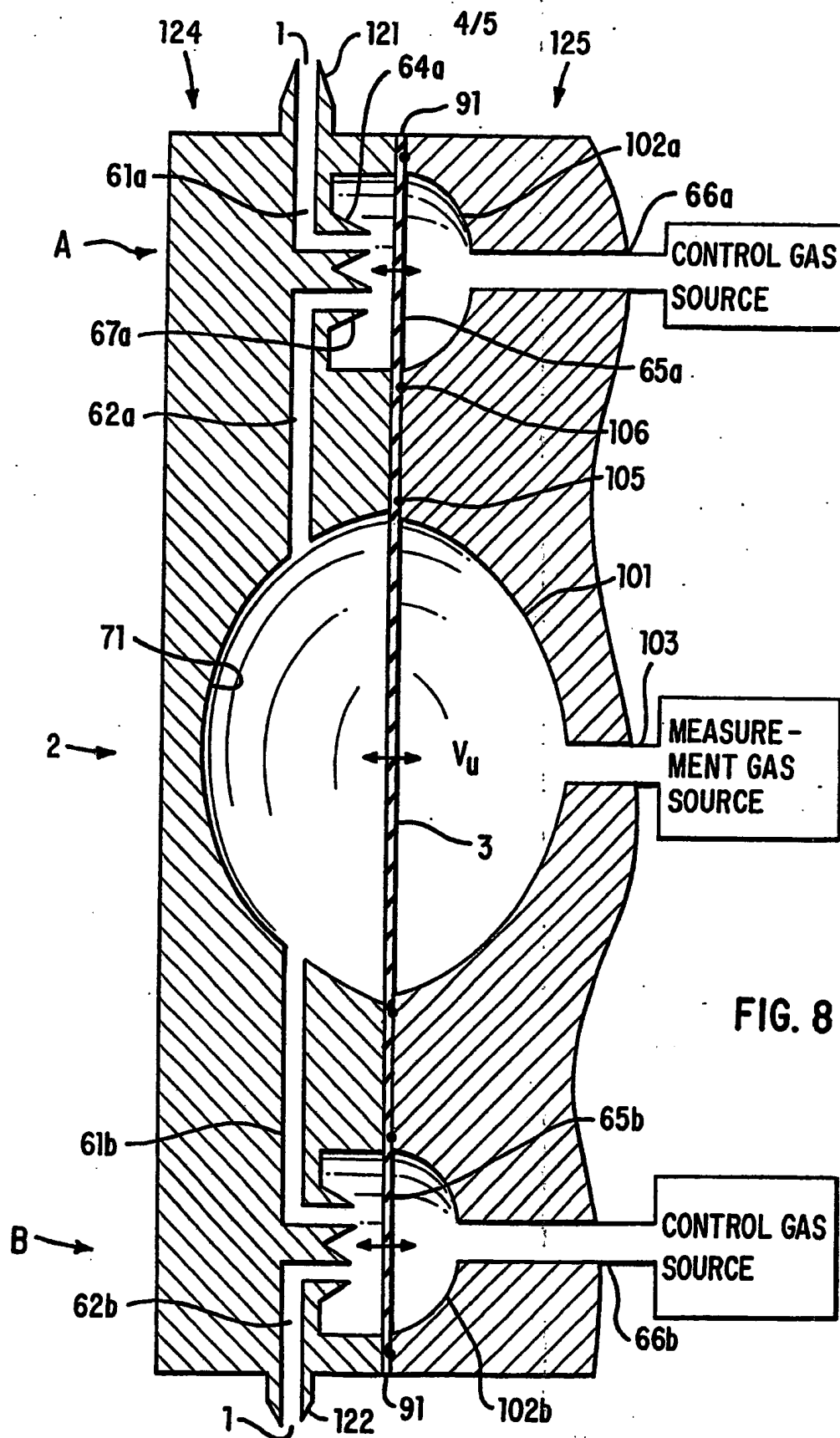


FIG. 8

5/5

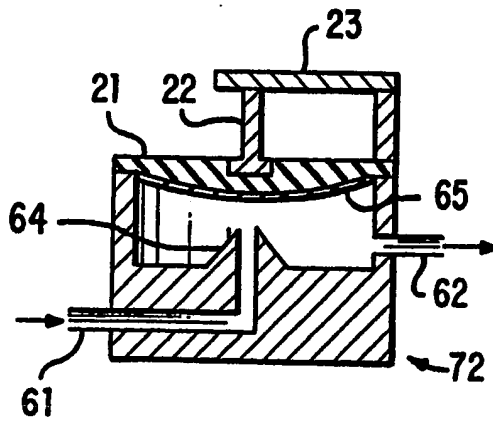


FIG. 9

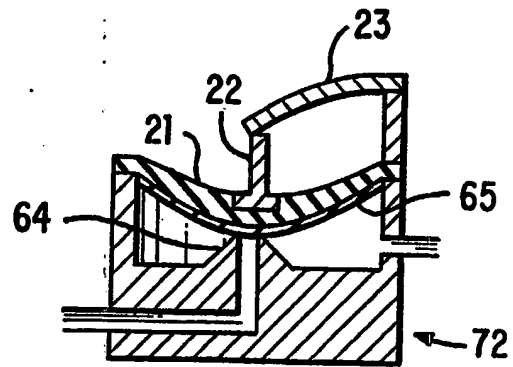


FIG. 10

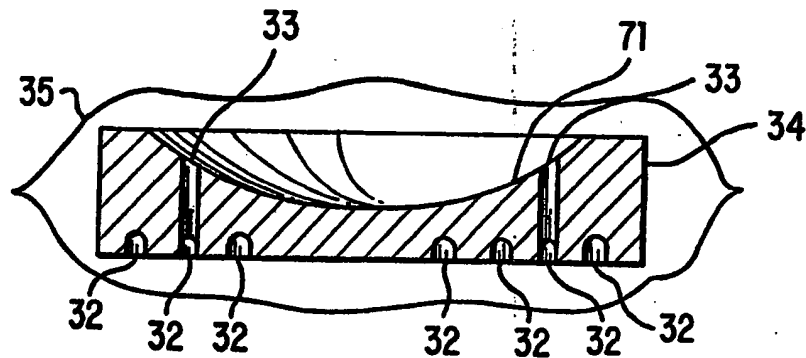


FIG. 11

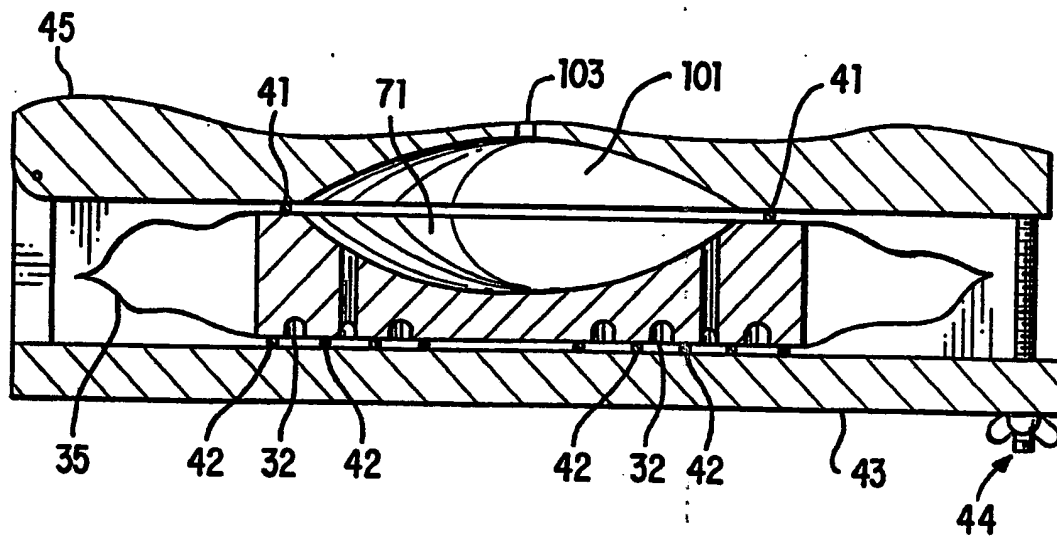
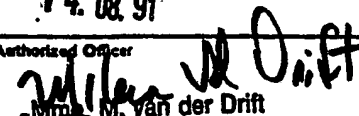


FIG. 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 91/03349

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
IPC ⁵ : A 61 M 5/142		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched *		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC ⁵	A 61 M 5/00, A 61 M 39/00, F 04 B 43/00, F 16 K 7/00, G 01 F 1/00, G 01 F 3/00, G 01 F 17/00	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched *		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT*		
Category *	Citation of Document, ** with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages **	Relevant to Claim No. **
P, X	WO, A2, 90/13 795 (DEKA PRODUCTS LTD) 15 November 1990 (15.11.90), see totality; esp. fig. 6A-12. --	1-4, 9, 17, 18
X	GB, A, 2 092 270 (ANATROS) 11 August 1982 (11.08.82), see totality; fig. 2, 3. --	1, 5
A	US, A, 4 410 322 (ARCHIBALD) 18 October 1983 (18.10.83), see totality. --	1, 9, 15, 17, 18
A	US, A, 4 826 482 (KAMEN) 02 May 1989 (02.05.89), see totality. --	1, 9, 15, 17, 18
A	EP, A1, 0 288 716 (OMNI-FLOW) 02 November 1988 (02.11.88), see totality. --	1
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>* Special categories of cited documents: **</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"Z" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
19 July 1991	14. 08. 91	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	 M. Van der Drift	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, " with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	US, A, 4 858 883 (WEBSTER) 22 August 1989 (22.08.89), see figures. ---	1
A	EP, B1, 0 129 554 (BAXTER) 07 December 1988 (07.12.88), see totality. ---	
A	US, A, 4 231 287 (SMILEY) 04 November 1980 (04.11.80), see totality. ----	1,5,6

ANHANG
zum internationalen Recherchen-
bericht über die internationale
Patentanmeldung Nr. .

ANNEX
to the International Search
Report to the International Patent
Application No.

ANNEXE
au rapport de recherche inter-
national relatif à la demande de brevet
international n°

PCT/US 91/03349 SAE 47952

In diesem Anhang sind die Mitglieder
der Patentfamilien der in obenge-
nannten internationalen Recherchenbericht
angeführten Patentdokumente angegeben.
Diese Angaben dienen nur zur Unter-
richtung und erfolgen ohne Gewähr.

This Annex lists the patent family
members relating to the patent documents
cited in the above-mentioned inter-
national search report. The Office is
in no way liable for these particulars
which are given merely for the purpose
of information.

La présente annexe indique les
membres de la famille de brevets
relatifs aux documents de brevets cités
dans le rapport de recherche inter-
national visée ci-dessus. Les renseigne-
ments fournis sont donnés à titre indica-
tif et n'engagent pas la responsabilité
de l'Office.

In Recherchenbericht angeführtes Patentdokument Patent document cited in search report Document de brevet cité dans le rapport de recherche	Datum der Veröffentlichung Publication date Date de publication	Mitglied(er) der Patentfamilie Patent family member(s) Membre(s) de la famille de brevets	Datum der Veröffentlichung Publication date Date de publication
WD-A2- 9013795	15-11-90	US-A - 4976162	11-12-90
		WD-A3- 9013795	10-01-91
		AU-A1-71618/87	28-09-87
		AU-A1-71621/87	28-09-87
		AU-A1-71646/87	28-09-87
		CA-A1- 1278843	08-01-91
		CA-A2- 1282737	09-04-91
		DE-C0- 3770221	27-06-91
		EP-A1- 258424	09-03-88
		EP-A1- 259464	16-03-88
		EP-A1- 262182	06-04-88
		EP-B1- 259464	22-05-91
		JP-T2-63503116	17-11-88
		JP-T2-63503117	17-11-88
		JP-T2- 1501446	25-05-89
		US-A - 4778451	18-10-88
		WD-A1- 8705223	11-09-87
		WD-A1- 8705224	11-09-87
		WD-A2- 8705225	11-09-87
		WD-A3- 8705225	19-11-87
		US-A - 4808161	28-02-89
		US-A - 4816019	28-03-89
		US-A - 4826482	02-05-89
		US-A - 4804360	14-02-89
		EP-A1- 332690	20-09-89
		EP-A4- 332690	26-09-90
		JP-T2- 2501198	26-04-90
		WD-A1- 8901795	09-03-89
GB-A - 2092270		DE-A1- 3201061	26-08-82
		FR-A1- 2498453	30-07-82
		GB-A1- 2092270	11-08-82
		JP-A2-57145668	08-09-82
US-A - 4410322	18-10-83	BR-A - 8007351	03-02-81
		CA-A1- 1146410	17-05-83
		CA-A2- 1155710	25-10-83
		CA-A2- 1161693	07-02-84

DE-CO-	3070973	19-09-85
DE-CO-	3071180	14-11-85
EP-A1-	24431	11-03-81
EP-A1-	90440	05-10-83
EP-B1-	24431	14-08-85
EP-B1-	90440	09-10-85
JP-T2-	56500093	29-01-81
JP-B4-	1026701	25-05-89
US-A -	4236880	02-12-80
WD-A1-	8001934	18-09-80
US-A -	4277226	07-07-81
US-A -	4382753	10-05-83
US-A -	4391600	05-07-83

US-A -	4826482	02-05-89	AU-A1-71618/87	28-09-87	
			AU-A1-71621/87	28-09-87	
			AU-A1-71646/87	28-09-87	
			CA-A1-	1278843	08-01-91
			CA-A2-	1282737	09-04-91
			DE-CO-	3770221	27-06-91
			EP-A1-	258424	09-03-88
			EP-A1-	259464	16-03-88
			EP-A1-	262182	06-04-88
			EP-B1-	259464	22-05-91
			JP-T2-	63503116	17-11-88
			JP-T2-	63503117	17-11-88
			JP-T2-	1501446	25-05-89
			US-A -	4778451	18-10-88
			WD-A1-	8705223	11-09-87
			WD-A1-	8705224	11-09-87
			WD-A2-	8705225	11-09-87
			WD-A3-	8705225	19-11-87
			US-A -	4808161	28-02-89
			US-A -	4816019	28-03-89
			US-A -	4976162	11-12-90
			US-A -	4804360	14-02-89
			EP-A1-	332690	20-09-89
			EP-A4-	332690	26-09-90
			JP-T2-	2501198	26-04-90
			WD-A1-	8901795	09-03-89
			WD-A2-	9013795	15-11-90
			WD-A3-	9013795	10-01-91

EP-A1-	288716	02-11-88	AU-A1-38562/85	15-08-85	
			AU-B2-	592052	04-01-90
			CA-A1-	1257165	11-07-89
			EP-A1-	154191	11-09-85
			EP-A1-	288717	02-11-88
			IL-A0-	74236	31-05-85
			IL-A1-	74236	12-07-90
			JP-A2-	60182961	18-09-85
			PT-A -	79940	01-03-85
			US-A -	4696671	29-09-87
			US-A -	4828545	09-05-89
			US-A -	4865584	12-09-89

US-A -	4858883	22-08-89	CA-A1-	1271466	10-07-90
			EP-A1-	400016	05-12-90
			US-A -	4852851	01-08-89
			WD-A1-	8905417	15-06-89
			US-A -	4848722	18-07-89
			CA-A1-	1271466	10-07-90

EP-B1-	129554	07-12-88	WD-A1-	8402473	05-07-84
			AU-A1-	22096/83	17-07-84
			DE-C0-	3378612	12-01-89
			EP-A1-	129554	02-01-85
			JP-T2-	60500159	07-02-85
			AU-A1-	14498/88	07-07-88
			CA-A1-	1210291	26-08-86
			ES-A1-	527810	01-11-84
			ES-A5-	527810	28-11-84
			ES-A1-	8500562	16-01-85
			IT-A -	1170290	03-06-87
			IT-A0-	8324400	27-12-83
			US-A -	4479762	30-10-84
			ZA-A -	8308388	25-07-84

US-A -	4231287	04-11-80	Keine -	None -	Rien
--------	---------	----------	---------	--------	------

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record.**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

☐ **BLACK BORDERS**

☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**

☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**

☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**

☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**

☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**

☒ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

☒ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**

☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.